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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/> 50X1
SUBJECT	1. Miscellaneous Military Information 2. Armament Plants in Vsetin and Jablunka 3. Possible Underground Petroleum Dump	DATE DISTR.	18 May 1955
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/> 50X1	NO. OF PAGES	8
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DATE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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REPORT NO.

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DATE DISTR. 19 April 1955

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PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

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Unidentified Military Unit Located in Vsetin

1. Since the summer of 1953, soldiers have been occupying an old castle located in the "Upper City" ("Horni mesto") on the right bank of the Becva River in Vsetin (N 49-20, E 18-00). (See page 6, point 7.) Prior to that date, offices of the local national committee (MNV - Mistni narodni vybor) had been located there.
2. Up to August 1954, source walked through this area regularly and always saw a sentry on duty at the castle entrance, wearing a field cap and shoulder boards which source could not identify. He was armed with a SMG (type and model unknown to source). In the rear of the castle, source saw from five to eight army trucks of approximately three-ton capacity (make unknown to source) in the parking area. Nearby, a brick garage was under construction.
3. Source did not have any further detailed information on the soldiers occupying the castle, their branch of service, strength, equipment or duties. However, he met some soldiers in Vsetin who wore OD field caps and uniforms, while others with OD uniforms wore visored garrison caps the tops of which were purplish in color. He could not recall any other uniform details.<sup>1</sup>
4. In the early part of 1954, there was an entertainment program for MEZ employees given by Interior Guard (VS - Vnitřní stráž) members. This fact was announced over the MEZ loudspeaking system. Source did not attend this entertainment nor did he see members of this VS entertainment group. Source had no further information on this event.

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Unidentified Military Unit Located Midway Between the Vsetin Community and the Armament Plant in Vsetin

5. Sometime in 1951, source noticed a new military unit located midway between Vsetin and the Vsetin Armament Plant. (See page 6, point 8.) He saw this location only from a distance, but observed that it consisted of approximately three wooden barracks. The guard at the gate wore a military uniform and was armed with a weapon. The type of troops located there, their strength, duties, and weapons were unknown to source.

Vehicle Information

6. Source was unable to provide any information on the utilization of motor vehicles by any component of the Czechoslovak Armed Forces. He was able to state only that in 1954 he noticed that the buses of the Czechoslovak Road Transport, National Enterprise (CSAD), a government civilian agency, were being repainted an olive-drab color similar to that of military vehicles. He also heard from a passing acquaintance that some cargo trucks and semi-trailers which did not belong to the CSAD would also be repainted with the same color. Source did not know or hear of the reason for this and could not give any further information concerning these vehicles.

7.

Armament Plant in Vsetin

8. Source stated it was common knowledge that some type of armament plant was located about two kilometers northeast of Vsetin. (See page 6.) Source regularly took walks about every other week to this plant until the summer of 1954. A sign on one of the buildings, which source believed was the administration section, read, up to the spring of 1948: "Zbrojovka-Brno-narodni podnik-Zavod Vsetin" (Armament Plant-Brno-National Enterprise-Branch Plant Vsetin). In 1948, however, the sign was changed to read: "Zbrojovka-narodni podnik-Vsetin" (Armament Plant-National Enterprise-Vsetin). This building was located on the highway a little distance from the armament plant grounds proper. (See page 6, point 9.)
9. Through hearsay, source gathered that this armament plant was established in 1938 as a branch of the Brno Armament Plant. As of 1954, however, it was an independent plant with a branch at Jablunka (N 49-23, E 17-58), located northwest of Vsetin.

10.

His conclusion was that there were always two shifts employed. The first shift was from 0600 to 1400 hours and the second shift was from 1400 to 2200 hours.

11.

Workers were brought in via trains and buses. The first shift was transported generally in eight railway coaches and about five buses with trailers. Transportation for the second shift consisted of about five train coaches and two to three buses with trailers. The trains and buses were always overcrowded with workers.

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12. According to hearsay information, approximately 6,000 men and women were employed at this plant. Source had no friends or acquaintances working there and no knowledge as to precisely what was being made there in 1954. However, a friend who had worked there up to 1949 stated that at that time sewing, textile, and milking machines were being manufactured there. A fellow employee at MEZ Vsetin told source that his wife had been employed at the Armament Plant inspecting ammunition rounds (type and size unknown to source). prior
13. At irregular intervals during 1953 and 1954, approximately every three months, source observed a gun (model and type unknown to source) being towed toward the plant by a civilian truck. He concluded that guns were being brought there for repairs. Furthermore, from time to time, successive bursts of rapid fire, which source thought was machine gun firing, and loud thuds at longer intervals, which he thought was artillery, could be heard coming from the direction of the Armament Plant's firing range. (See page 6, point 16.) Source had never had an opportunity to see any details of the firing range. He saw it only from a distance.
14. Source was unable to give details on the type of guards employed at this plant in recent years due to the fact that he never approached close enough to the entrance of the establishment to observe them.
15. while on a Sunday afternoon hike to Cab Mountain, located northeast of Vsetin, source found himself in the vicinity of the Armament Plant. One of the fence gates in the northern section of the valley area was left unlocked and since there were no "keep out" signs posted, he walked through the entire area (points 14, 12 and 11 as indicated on page 6). He reached another fence, separating point 14 from the rest of the property, and at the gate there (point 13) was stopped by two civilian plant guards who were surprised to see him there. They asked source for identification and an explanation as to how he entered the area. When he told them that the gates in the northern section of the fence were unlocked they concluded that woodsmen had failed to lock the gates. One of the guards then gave source a ride on his bicycle to the main entrance of the plant.
16. Because of this trip through the entire length of this armament plant, source was able to point out and describe some of the buildings he observed. These are shown on page 6. Consideration should be given to the fact that all this took place in 1946 and, consequently, approximate measurements given for various buildings may well be erroneous.
- Alleged Branch of Vsetin Armament Plant near Jablunka (see page 7)
17. Source was told by an acquaintance that there was a branch plant of the Armament Plant in Vsetin near Jablunka (N 49-23, E 17-58). Due to the fact that source was acquainted with this area and on the basis of what he was told, he was able to give the approximate location of this branch plant. Source also heard that it was common knowledge that some type of signal rockets were manufactured there. Source was told by an acquaintance that in the summer of 1952 an explosion had occurred at this branch plant and that several men were killed and others were injured. Source was not told nor did he know what had caused this explosion or the extent of the damage it caused.
18. Source also stated that a friend of his who was a construction worker had told him that some construction was taking place near the plant either in late 1953 or early 1954 and that progress was very slow because the earth was constantly sliding and caving in. The construction company had encountered much trouble since the construction

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was taking place on a slope or hill next to the plant. Source did not know or hear of the type of equipment being used or the kind of structure being erected.

Possible Underground Petroleum Dump

19. While traveling on a train between Hulin (N 49-19, E 17-28) and Valasske Mezirici (N 49-28, E 17-58) during May 1954, source observed some large piles of loose dirt, apparently the result of excavations. Source could not pinpoint this location on the map but to the best of his knowledge stated that it was near the Osicko railroad station on the right side of the railway line when going toward Valasske Mezirici. At the time of observation source could see no movement or sign of construction; but, his vision was obscured because the excavation was located at the edge of a wooded area. He said that he overheard conversation on the train concerning the project and it was rumored that an underground petroleum dump was to be built there. Construction was begun about May 1952 but recently had been slowed down. Source heard no more about the subject and did not see any fuel tanks or other materials there to substantiate this rumor.

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1. Comment. According to available references, garrison caps of this color are worn by Interior Guard (VS - Vnitřní stráž) troops.

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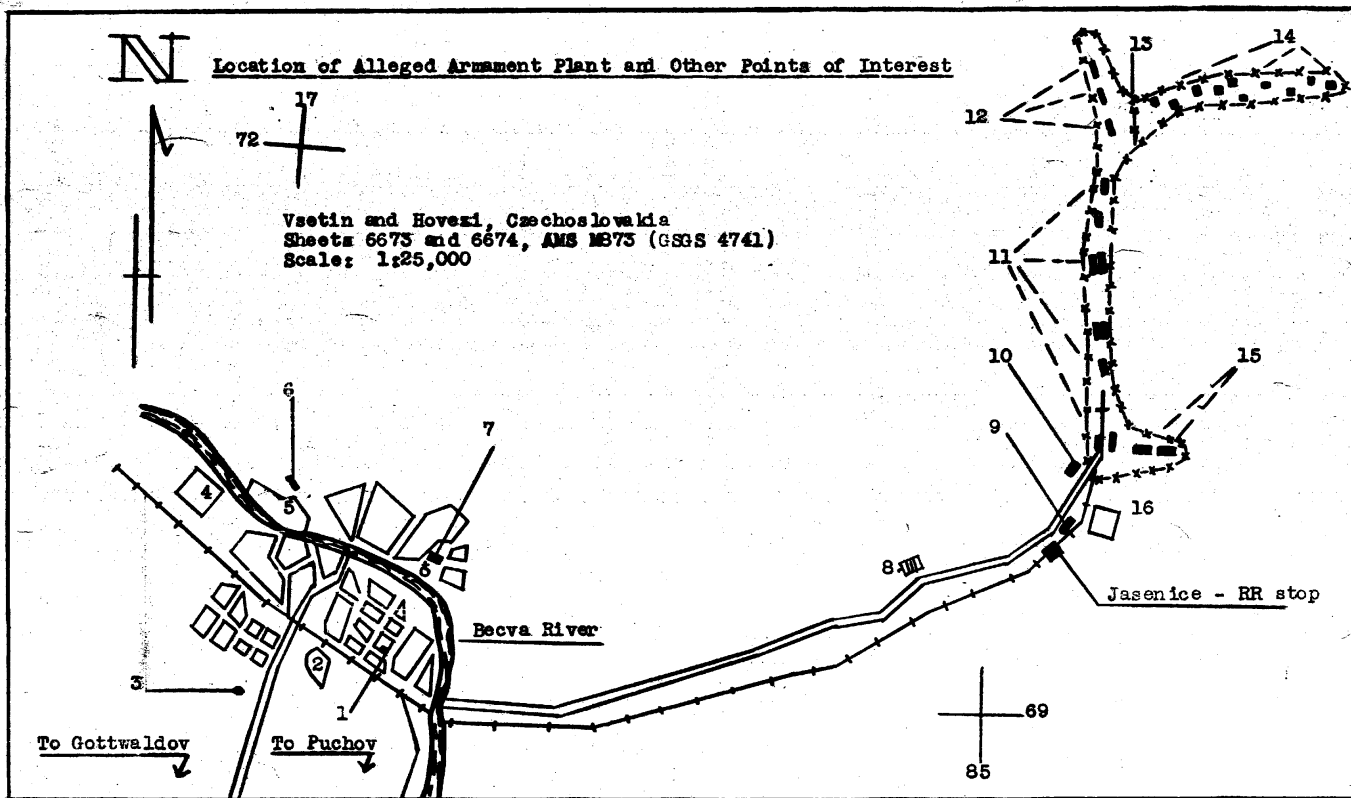
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Legend: Locations of Unidentified Military Units, Armament Plant, a Completed Air Raid Shelter, a Proposed Air Raid Shelter, and an Air Raid Observation Bunker in Vsetin (see page 6)

1. Emergency water reservoir. (For details see [ ] - report on possible Czechoslovak civil defense measures.) 50X1
2. "Sandryk", part of MEZ plant. Indicated only as orientation point.
3. Approximate location of a proposed air raid warning observation bunker. An air warning observation bunker was to be located on the slope of Zamboska Mountain. Source heard this in summer of 1953 from his fellow [ ] who lived in that area. No building had commenced prior to [ ] September 1954. 50X1 50X1
4. Main part of MEZ plant. Indicated only as orientation point.
5. "Kablovka" (Cable Plant), formerly property of Kablo Bratislava. Indicated only as orientation point.
6. Location of a proposed MEZ air raid shelter. Source heard in 1954 from his fellow workers that MEZ planned to build an air raid shelter in a slope in the immediate vicinity of Kablovka.
7. Unidentified military unit (see page 1, paragraphs 1 through 4). One-story building, oblong in shape, approximately 80 x 40 m. This was a former castle with an enclosure. There was a massive tower about 25 m. high over the main entrance.
8. Unidentified military barracks (see page 2, paragraph 5). Three wooden barracks, approximately 20 x 6 m. each, were located here. The area was surrounded by a barbed wire fence, about 1½ m. high.
9. Alleged administration building, two-story, stucco, 40 x 10 m., of the Armament Plant in Vsetin.
10. Alleged location of Armament Plant air raid shelter. The consensus among persons known to source was that an underground construction completed in the summer of 1954 and located in a slope in this vicinity was an Armament Plant air raid shelter. Source was near this location for the last time in the summer of 1954, but could only see what he believed to be the shelter entrance leading into the slope. Further details were not visible.
1. Section of Armament Plant area. About nine buildings were located here. Source was unable to give approximate dimensions. He mentioned that some were two stories high while others had only a ground floor.
2. Another section of Armament Plant. About three one-story buildings, approximately 50 x 15 m., were located here.
3. Fence. A fence separating an area in point 14 from the rest of the project. Source was of the opinion that ammunition was being manufactured in this area.
4. Alleged ammunition manufacturing section. About 10 small brick buildings, 8 x 8 m., ground floor only, were located here. Each building was surrounded by a two to three-meter-high brick wall.
5. Another section of Armament Plant. About two one-story stucco buildings, 40 x 10 m., were located here.
5. Alleged Armament Plant firing range. An area approximately 60 x 40 m., enclosed with a soil embankment from two to three meters high.

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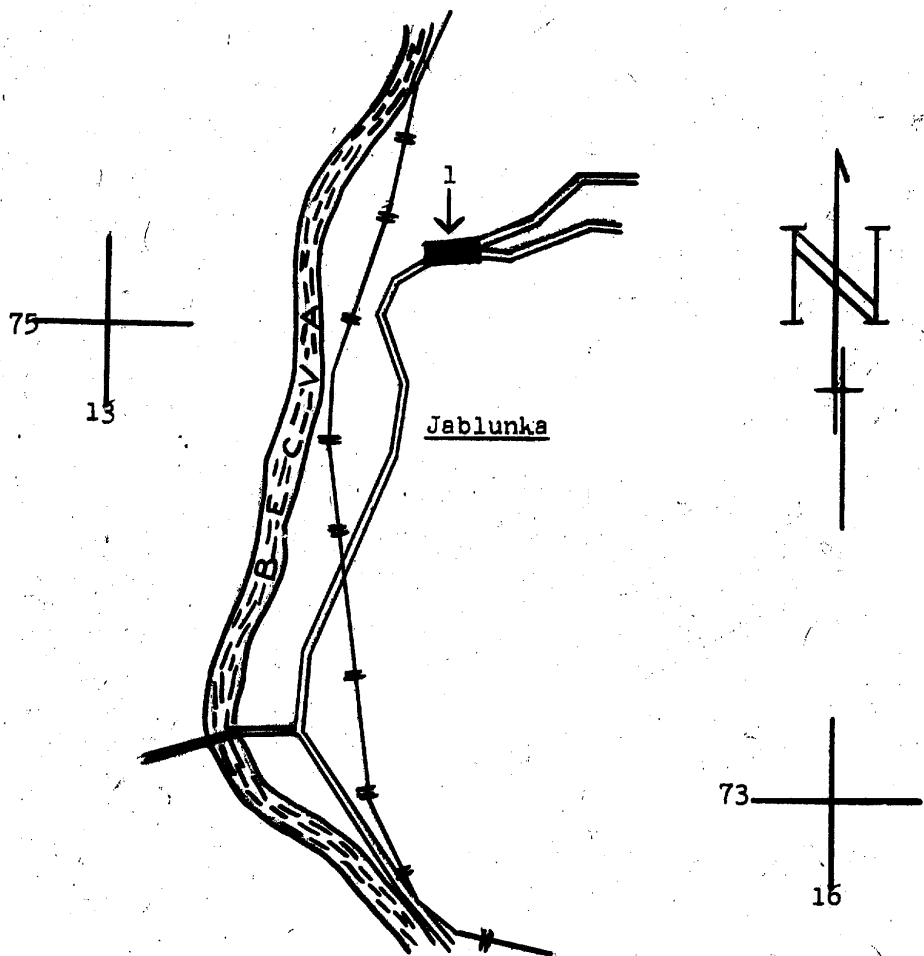


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Alleged Branch of Vsetin Armament Plant Near  
Jablunka, Czechoslovakia



Vsetin, Czechoslovakia  
Sheet 6673, AMS M873 (GSQS 4741)  
Scale: 1:25,000

Legend:

- 1. Approximate location of branch of Vsetin Armament Plant near Jablunka.

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